

REMARKS

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 19-45, 47-62 and 64-65 were presented for examination. Claims 46-62 and 64-65 were withdrawn from prosecution, according to the Office action summary. Claims 1-45 were rejected under 35 USC §112, as not being enabled for non-polymeric gelling agents.

Claim Amendments

Claim 19 has been amended to overcome the rejection by limiting the gelling agent to “polymeric”, the Office having kindly acknowledged that polymeric gelling agents are included. Applicant notes that applicant’s usage of “polymeric” is broad in that proteins are included among the possible gelling agents recited on page 16 of the specification, at line 10. Furthermore, those skilled in the art will understand that other gelling agents such as are disclosed or suggested in the specification, and their equivalents may be utilized in the practice of the invention.

Claim 64 Believed not Properly Withdrawn

Applicant believes that the withdrawal of claim 64 may have been an oversight because claim 64 clearly relates to the invention of claim 19. Reinstatement of claim 64 is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and the discussion relating thereto, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Such action is most earnestly solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels

that consultation with Applicant's representative would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, they are invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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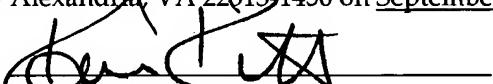
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope, postage prepaid, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 7, 2004.


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